

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Tonbridge Rural Sanitary District,

In 1897.

CENSUS 1881.	CENSUS 1891.
No. of Acres .....41,761	No. of Acres.....41,771
Inhabited Houses..... 2,918	Inhabited Houses..... 3,278
Population .....15,184	Population .....17,831

The **Population** was estimated, by the method adopted by the Registrar-General, to be **18,089**, showing an increase of 38 since the middle of 1896.

The registered births amounted to 486, and included 230 of males and 256 of females. The **Birth-rate** was **26·8** per 1,000, as against 28·6 in 1896, and 26·4 in 1895.

Two hundred and sixty-two deaths were returned, including 138 of males and 124 of females.

The **Death-rate** was **12·4** per 1,000 of population, as against 14·2 in 1896.

Of the total 262 deaths, 19 were caused by one or other of the seven principal zymotic diseases, as against 30 in 1896, viz., 8 by Diphtheria, 1 by Enteric Fever, 1 by Measles, 4 by Whooping-cough, and 5 by Diarrhœa.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** was **0·9** per 1,000, as compared with 1·6 in 1896, and 1·1 in 1895.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was **86**, as compared with 115 in 1896, and 138 in 1895.

During the year 1897 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales was 29·7, the general death-rate 17·4, and the zymotic death-rate 2·15 per 1,000 of population. The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age per each 1,000 births registered was 156.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, 94 cases were reported, as against 168 in the previous year, including 25 of Scarlet Fever, 49 of Diphtheria, 5 of Enteric Fever, and 15 of Erysipelas.

SMALL-POX.—Not a single case of this disease occurred throughout the year.

SCARLET FEVER.—Only 25 cases were notified, *i.e.*, one-third of the number reported during the previous year, and all the patients recovered. They occurred as follows:—1 in Bidborough, 1 in Brenchley, 1 in Capel and Tudely, 3 in Hildenborough, 1 in Horsmonden, 7 in Lamberhurst, 5 in Pembury, 1 in Speldhurst, and 5 in Tonbridge Rural Parish. The cases were distributed throughout the year, each month, except February, May and December, contributing to the number as follows:—January, 2; March, 1; April, 1; June, 1; July, 3; August, 5; September, 1; October, 7; and November, 4.

The following shows the age-periods at which the cases occurred :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.		
5	17	3	...	25 cases.

DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).—This disease was more prevalent than Scarlet Fever, although the number showed a decrease of 4 from that of the previous year, 49 cases having been reported, as against 53 in 1896.

They occurred—2 in Brenchley, 2 in Capel-cum-Tudely, 1 in Hadlow, 1 in Hildenborough, 1 in Lamberhurst, 11 in Pembury, 29 in Speldhurst, and 2 in Tonbridge Rural Parish.

The disease was prevalent throughout the year, cases having been reported during every month, viz., 9 in January, 7 in February, 7 in March, 1 in April, 4 in May, 2 in June, 2 in July, 3 in August, 4 in September, 8 in October, 1 in November, and 1 in December.

Eight of the patients succumbed to the disease, giving a case-mortality of 16·3 per cent., and a Diphtheria death-rate of 0·4 per 1000 of population.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age-periods :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.		
15	20	11	3	...	49 cases.
4	4			...	8 deaths.

The following is a detailed list of the fatalities :—

		Age.	
1st Quarter—5	January 11th	8 years	Rusthall.
	„ 17th	5 years	„
	February 8th	4 years	Hildenborough.
	March 1st	3 years	Hadlow.
	March 19th	12 months	Pembury.
3rd Quarter—1	September 4th	2 years	Brenchley.
4th Quarter—2	October 2nd	8 years	Pembury.
	„ 3rd	5 years	„

The death which occurred on September 4th was that of a child of a London hop-picker, in the Parish of Brenchley.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Five cases were notified—1 in August from Hadlow, 1 in September from Brenchley, 1 in October from Lamberhurst, and 2 in December from Hildenborough.

The first-named case ended fatally, and was that of a youth, who, when working on the farm, was in the habit of drinking water from ditches in the vicinity. This was the only fatal case during the year.

The second case was that of a girl who was in service in Maidstone, and who contracted the disease in that town. A Special Report, dealing with the circumstances of her removal from Maidstone to her home, was presented to your Council on October 21st, 1897. The last two cases were those of two children at Hildenborough, aged 10 years, who contracted the disease in London.

The following shows the age-periods at which the cases and death occurred :—

5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.		
2	2	1	..	5 cases.
	1		...	1 death.

ERYSIPELAS.—Fifteen cases, two of which were fatal, of this disease were reported throughout the year, viz., 5 in Brenchley, 6 in Capel-cum-Tudely, 1 in Hadlow, 1 in Hildenborough, and 2 in Speldhurst at the following age-periods :—

0—1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	25—65 years.	65 years upwards.		
1	1	1	9	3	...	15 cases.
2					...	2 deaths.

The fatal cases occurred—one in Hadlow, that of an infant under one year of age, in June ; and the other, which was not notified, but returned by the Registrar as “Infantile Erysipelas,” at Lamberhurst, in November, the patient also being an infant under one year of age.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES was not at all prevalent and caused only one death at Hildenborough in April, that of an adult female.

WHOOPIING-COUGH was responsible for four deaths, viz., 1 in Brenchley in September, 2 in Hildenborough in January and April, and 1 in Speldhurst in June. The ages of the patients varied from 1 month to 2 years.

DIARRHŒA.—Five deaths, due to this disease, were reported, viz., 1 at the Union Workhouse, 2 in Hadlow, and 1 in each of the Parishes of Pembury and Brenchley. The deaths occurred 1 in June and 4 in September, and the patients were aged from 11 months to 2 years.

RHEUMATIC FEVER caused 2 deaths in June—1 in each of the Parishes of Horsmonden and Tonbridge, both the patients being 33 years of age.

INFLUENZA was responsible for 6 deaths—1 in Capel-cum-Tudely in January, 3 in Lamberhurst during the months of April, May and June, and 2 at the Workhouse in December. All the patients were adults, their ages varying from 35 to 86 years.

ISOLATION.—Fifty cases of infectious disease were treated at the Isolation Hospital during the year, consisting of 17 cases of Scarlet Fever and 33 cases of Diphtheria. They were admitted during the months of the year as follows :—

January	...	...	7	Diphtheria.
February	...	...	5	”
March...	...	...	7	1 Scarlet Fever and 6 Diphtheria.
April ...	...	...	2	1 ” 1 ”
May ...	...	...	3	Diphtheria.
June ...	...	...	1	Scarlet Fever.
July ...	...	...	2	” ”
August	...	...	6	5 Scarlet Fever and 1 Diphtheria.
September	...	...	2	1 ” ” ” 1 ”
October	...	...	12	4 ” ” ” 8 ”
November	...	...	3	2 ” ” ” 1 ”
Total				50

The total of 4 deaths which occurred at the Hospital during the year were all due to Diphtheria.

The two deaths which occurred in January were those of a brother and sister, aged respectively 5 and 8 years, who were removed from Rusthall in the Parish of Speldhurst. Five other members of the same family had also contracted the disease.

The other two fatal cases both came from the Parish of Pembury.

The longest stay in the Hospital was 50 days, and the average stay 30 days.

The water supply at the Hospital has been considerably improved during the year. The rain-water tank has been enlarged by making an alteration in the inflow and cement work at the top, and the well in the garden has been opened up round the outside, cemented and puddled for several feet down and the brickwork raised above the ground level to prevent surface contamination, and the well has also been cleaned out. The Council has, during the past year, acquired an excellent site for a Small-pox Hospital. The site, about 10 acres in area, is known as “Dislingbury Farm,” and is situated partly in the Parish of Pembury and partly in the Parish of Capel, distant about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the existing hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.—Constant complaints are still received respecting the water supply of Paddock Wood. On the 4th of June last I inspected the South Kent Water Company's pumping station with the Manager, and June 16th had an interview with Mr. Easton at his office in London, but it appears that the Company are not in a position to improve the present supply or draw water from a fresh source.

Your Officers are at present in an anomalous position, for if the water of a private well is found of bad quality it is unreasonable to close it as the other only available supply, *i.e.*, the water supplied by the public company, is not of a quality to be recommended; and on the other hand it is useless to recommend the sinking of new wells as the ground around the more thickly populated parts is already fouled with sewage from the numerous leaking cesspools.

The Mid-Kent Water Company, in their Bill shortly to be introduced, seek to dissolve and re-incorporate the Mid-Kent Water Company, to extend their limits of supply, and to confer further powers for the construction of works, &c., and include Paddock Wood (in the Parish of Brenchley) as a part of "the District" for which they seek additional powers; but considering the distance of Paddock Wood from the source it seems very doubtful when it would be likely to be supplied.

The Mid-Kent Bill also seeks to repeal the powers conferred upon the South Kent Company by the Act of 1889.

It is evident, therefore, that the water supply of Paddock Wood is one of the matters which claim the Council's serious and early attention.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.—On the 8th April I reported to your Council on the condition of four houses at Lamberhurst which were in an unsatisfactory condition, several being dangerous.

Mr. Brown's Report on work done during the year, the customary Vital Statistics and the returns required by the Local Government Board are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW,

March 21st, 1898.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances of Work done during 1897.

Number	of	bad or insufficient drainage and cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
"	"	Bad construction or condition of privy or cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
"	"	Foul or injurious pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
"	"	Dwellings in which Zymotic disease occurred cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
"	"	Hopper houses inspected and reported upon...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
"	"	Schools disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	Dirty and dilapidated dwellings	..	...	...	...	...	...	22
"	"	Dwellings overcrowded...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
"	"	Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
"	"	Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
"	"	Offensive and dilapidated sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
"	"	Sinks disconnected	...	..	...	...	...	...	23
"	"	Fish unfit for human food	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
"	"	Fruit unfit for human food	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
"	"	Insufficient privies and urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
"	"	Defective traps and drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
"	"	Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
"	"	Deficient or impure water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
"	"	Houses connected with water mains	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
"	"	Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
"	"	Samples sent to County Analysts	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
"	"	Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
"	"	Rain water tanks cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
"	"	" " " constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
"	"	Foul ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"	"	W.C.'s in dirty and dilapidated state	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
"	"	Water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
"	"	Pumps out of order and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
"	"	Cowsheds and Dairies visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
"	"	Visits where interference unnecessary	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
Included in the above are structural alterations effected		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	287
Number	of	Privies connected with W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
"	"	Dry Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
"	"	Kent Ventilating Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Referred to Magistrates...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE I.

The number of Deaths from all causes, and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, with their Death-rates; the principal causes of Death, and the Infant Mortality in the Tonbridge Rural District in each Quarter of 1897.

Quarters.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Deaths from 7 principal Zymotics.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	Diarrhœa	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births.
1st	81	15·4	6	1·3	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	8	10	7	1	2	47	100
2nd	67	12·5	4	0·6	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	2	5	4	8	3	2	38	57
3rd	56	11·7	7	1·5	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	4	..	5	6	6	..	1	31	92
4th	58	10·1	2	0·4	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	7	7	3	1	34	102
Totals	262	12·4	19	0·9	..	..	7	1	1	2	1	4	5	2	21	27	28	7	6	150	86

TABLE II.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the past ten years and in 1897.

Zymotic Diseases.	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	Average of ten years.	1897
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0·0	0
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	1	..	1	1	2	7	..	1	1	1·4	0
Diphtheria.. .. .	10	2	..	2	3	2	7	2	3	11	4·2	8
Fevers .. .. .	..	1	2	3	2	1	2	..	1	2	1·4	1
Measles .. .. .	..	8	8	2	3	2	3	..	6	5	3·7	1
Whooping-cough ..	2	1	3	9	8	2	3	2	6	9	4·5	4
Diarrhœa	7	4	7	..	4	4	2	2	3	2	3·5	5
Total of Zymotics	19	17	20	17	21	13	24	6	20	30	18·7	19
Other Zymotics	3	2	..	5	11	22	11	6	13	6	7·9	8
Totals	22	19	20	22	32	35	35	12	33	36	26·6	27

TABLE III.

The larger Parishes in the Tonbridge Rural District, arranged in order of their Death-rates, with total Deaths, Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, and the Zymotic Death-rate for the year 1897.

PARISHES.	Census Population in 1891.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Deaths from 7 prin- cipal Zymotic Diseases.	Zymotic Death- rate.
Pembury	1662	14	8·2	4	2·1
Speldhurst.. .. .	2743	25	10·5	3	1·0
Brenchley	3822	47	13·1	2	0·5
Horsmonden	1542	19	13·2	0	0·0
Hadlow	2318	32	14·3	4	1·7
Capel and Tudely	1128	14	14·8	0	0·0
Tonbridge	750	14	18·5	0	0·0

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1897, in the TONBRIDGE Rural Sanitary District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.		
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.															
ASHURST .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BIDBOROUGH	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BRENCHLEY	47	7	2	2	3	9	24	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	1	5	..	..	..	4	9
CAPEL AND TUDELY ..	14	5	1	2	..	3	3	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	3	6
HADLOW	32	8	4	1	3	7	9	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	..	3	1	5	..	1	6	11	20
HILDENBOROUGH ..	18	4	2	..	1	5	6	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	8	12
HORSMONDEN	19	3	2	..	1	5	8	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	4	5	14
LAMBERHURST	17	3	..	1	1	7	5	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	6	14
PEMBURY	14	4	4	2	..	2	2	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	2	3	8
SPELDHURST	25	3	1	2	2	7	10	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	3	13	21
TONBRIDGE	14	3	1	..	3	6	1	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	7	10
HOP-PICKERS	6	2	1	..	..	3	..	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	1	3
WORKHOUSE	52	1	2	..	1	14	34	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	8	2	..	2	..	29	49
TOTALS	262	43	20	10	15	70	104	(Under 5 (5 upwds.	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	4	3	9	3	9	27	3	..	2	31	63	199

REPORT on the HEALTH

OF THE

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT

In 1897,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.